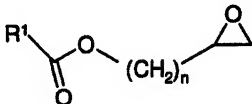


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

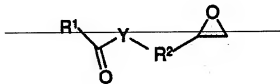
Claims Listing

1. (Currently amended) A method for applying a reactive epoxy containing coating to a substrate, said method comprising subjecting said substrate to a pulsed plasma discharge in the presence of a polymerizable epoxy monomer of formula (II)

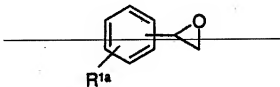


(II)

of formula (I) or (IA)



(I)



(IA)

where R^1 or R^{1a} is a hydrocarbaryl group, optionally substituted by a halo group, or a heterocyclic group and n is an integer from 1 to 20;

~~R^2 is a straight or branched alkylene chain, optionally substituted by a halo group; and~~

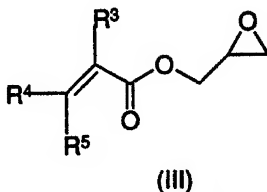
~~Y is oxygen or a bond,~~

such that polymer growth of a reactive epoxy containing coating occurs on a surface of the substrate, wherein the pulsed plasma discharge is achieved by applying a power pulse to the plasma, each applied power pulse having a power off time of from 10,000 to 20,000 μ s and wherein an average power density of the pulsed plasma discharge is less than 0.0025 W/cm³.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein, in the compound of formula (II), n is 1 to 3.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3 wherein the compound of formula (II) is a compound of formula (III)



where R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl.

5-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the pulsed plasma discharge is applied such that power is on for 20 μ s and off for from 10000 μ s to 20000 μ s.

8-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) A method for immobilisation of a nucleophilic reagent at a surface, ~~said~~ the method comprising the application of a the reactive epoxy containing coating to ~~said~~ the surface by ~~a method according to the method of~~ claim 1, and then contacting the surface with a solution of ~~said~~ the nucleophilic reagent under conditions such that the nucleophilic reagent reacts with the epoxy groups.

13-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the nucleophilic reagent is a carboxylic acid or amine.